

CHALLENGE COMPETITIONS PROGRAM

WHY INNOVATION CHALLENGES WORK?

Competitions foster innovation, attract new stakeholders to a challenge, and deepen engagement on critical issues with community residents, industry partners, academia, and the nonprofit sector.



OUR APPROACH:

Typical challenge competitions ask entrepreneurs, developers, and other creative minds to address difficult community issues with the help of next-generation technology solutions. US Ignite supports our partners in **designing, implementing, and evaluating** tech-agnostic challenge competitions. We tap into 150 partners that include expert service providers, tech entrepreneurs, carriers, vendors, Internet of Things (IoT) network operators, and manufacturers to work through the various stages of a challenge:

Challenge Design

The design phase deeply engages internal stakeholders for the challenge planning, ideation, and implementation components.

Implementation

US Ignite supports partners through each phase of implementing the challenge. We help select and design the best proposal process and guide partners through the execution.

Evaluation

US Ignite provides partners with a comprehensive evaluation report about the challenge, including impact, successes, and weaknesses, and an outlook for future challenges.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

30
COMPETITIONS

Facilitated more than 30 competitions with hundreds of participants

150
APPLICATIONS

Developed over 150 applications with more than 100 teams

60+
STARTUPS

Trained 60+ startups from 40 different communities via business accelerators

\$2M
PRIZE MONEY

Awarded over \$2 million in prize money to communities and developers

EXAMPLE WORK



NIST CHARIOT CHALLENGE

US Ignite supported the development and facilitation of the ChARIoT Challenge, hosted by NIST, which encouraged the innovative use of IoT data and augmented reality (AR) technologies to help first responders in emergency situations.



VIRGINIA CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGE

The Virginia Cybersecurity Challenge, hosted in partnership with the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, supported researchers at Virginia universities in developing a cybersecurity prototype that leverages unique elements of emerging 5G technologies.



FACEBOOK AR DEVELOPER CHALLENGE

The AR Developer Challenge, designed in partnership with Facebook Reality Labs, worked directly with three selected communities to host reverse pitch competitions supporting the development of AR applications to address local problems.



MIRAMAR 5G COMPETITION

This competition, hosted with the Department of Defense, challenged companies to find innovative uses for 5G-enabled tech devices to improve military operations. emerging 5G technologies.



WEST LAFAYETTE SMART CITY CHALLENGE

The City of West Lafayette utilized the WL Smart City Challenge to address road safety with scalable IoT and software solutions leveraging city data and IoT infrastructure.



AWS STARTUP ACCELERATOR COMPETITION

With support from Amazon Web Services (AWS) US Ignite challenged startups to create smart city applications using cloud infrastructure.

WORK WITH US

US Ignite works with communities to establish challenge competitions involving federal, state, municipal, corporate, and nonprofit partners. From planning and execution to evaluation, US Ignite can help. Reach out to challenges@us-ignite.org.

POSITION YOURSELF FOR THE FUTURE!